Step 30
Start of Summer
GOING TO THE POOL WAS FUN!
YEAH IT WAS, HARUKI
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO DROWN IN THE LAZY RIVER, NII-CHAN.
S-SHUT UP.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE BAD AT SWIMMING, NII-CHAN.
KEEP TALKING AND I WON'T TAKE YOU TO THE POOL ANYMORE!
I'M GOING TO STOP BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE REAL QUICK.
JUMP GOES ON SALE TODAY.
ALRIGHT, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE PARK.

That's one big koi fish.
KIMURA-KUN?
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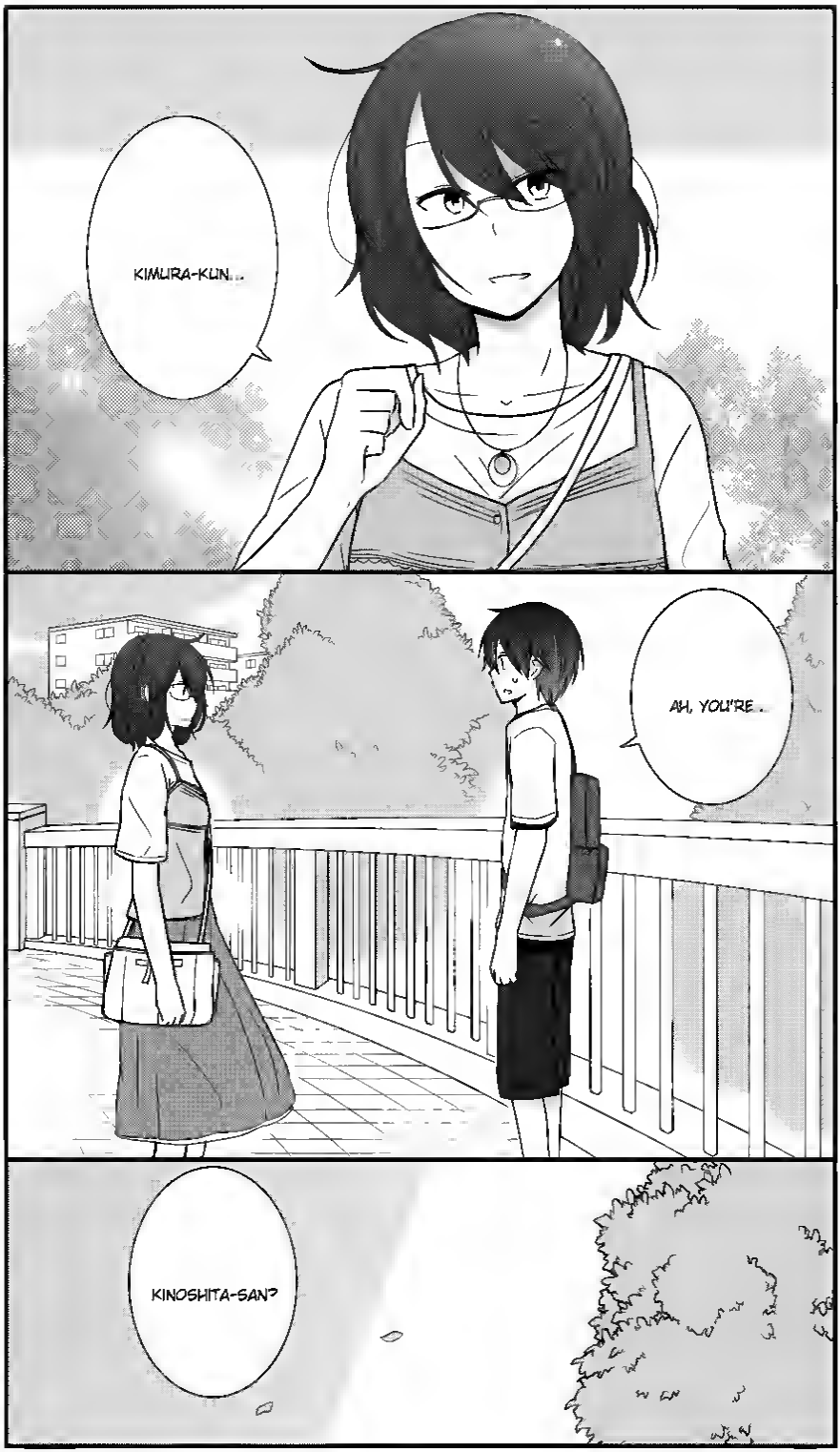
HUH?
SO IT IS YOU...


KIMURA-KUN...
AH, YOU'RE..
KINOSHITA-SAN?

I DIDN'T THINK I'D MEET YOU HERE.
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU TOO
ARE YOU OUT SHOPPING?
NO, I'M ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE LIBRARY.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THE GRADUATION CEREMONY. THAT MAKES IT... FOUR MONTHS?
I FEEL LIKE SHE'S BECOME A LOT MORE CHEERFUL SINCE THEN.
DID YOU GET A PERM? YOUR HAIRSTYLE'S REALLY CUTE.
H-HUH?

HM?
NO WAY!
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
CRAP, SHE USED TO LIKE ME...
SHE MIGHT MISUNDER-STAND AGAIN.
OH YEAH, HOW'S HIGH SCHOOL GOING? IS IT FUN?
UMM, IT'S NORMAL I GUESS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH YOU AND OOTSUKA-SAN?
NOT THIS AGAIN!
NOTHING'S HAPPENING BETWEEN US! AND NOTHING EVER WILL!
I SEE IF YOU SAY SO.

THEN—
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE YOU LIKE?
ズキッ
SO THERE IS, HUH.
....

WELL,
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE
I'VE GIVEN UP ALREADY.

THERE'S MORE IMPORTANT THINGS I NEED TO FOCUS ON
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR ME TO WORRY ABOUT LOVE ANYWAY.
KIMURA-KUN ..
YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
IT'S BECAUSE I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THAT MY WORLD CHANGED.
COME AGAIN?
I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR THAT.

AND EXPERIENCE THOSE WONDERFUL HAPPY FEELINGS FOR YOURSELF.
THAT'S WHY I HOPED THAT YOU TOO CAN FIND SOMEONE THAT YOU LOVE.
TO THINK YOU'D SAY THINGS LIKE "IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE" OR "I'VE GIVEN UP ALREADY"..
BUT HEY—
WE'RE ONLY 15 YEARS OLD, YOU KNOW!
THIS IS STILL OUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.

IT'S TOO EARLY TO GIVE UP
WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN FROM HERE ON OUT.
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FOR ME AS WELL.

U-UMM...
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WHOA, HARUKI! YOU'RE DONE SHOPPING ALREADY?
WHO'S HE?
MY LITTLE BROTHER
ALRIGHT WE'LL BE GOING THEN.
SEE YOU AROUND, KINOSHITA-SAN.
SEE YOU.

I DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE KINOSHITA-SAN THERE.
That was quite a surprise.
BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY A NICE GIRL.
IF WE HADN'T SWITCHED PLACES, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE BECOME FRIENDS WITH HER.
NII-CHAN.
THAT GIRL...
!!?
ビック—
SHE LIKES YOU.

IT'S TRUE THAT SHE'S A HOTTIE,
HARUKI!
You're really perceptive you know that?
BUT I WON'T ACCEPT YOU GOING OUT WITH ANYONE BUT YUI-NEE-CHAN!
No cheating!
WHAT...

WAIT, ISN'T KINOSHITA..
THAT GIRL WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME GIRL HERE, RIGHT?
YEAH, I JUST RAN INTO HER AND WE TALKED FOR A BIT.
OH RIGHT, ALL THE PEOPLE FROM OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL LIVE CLOSE TO HERE AFTER ALL.
SO WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO REPORT?
ちょっと！
WELL.. QUITE A LOT HAPPENED
OH COOL!
JUN-SAN SAID THAT HE'D LET ME TRY HIS NEW RAMEN RECIPE FOR FREE TOMORROW.
sweet!
JUN-SAN? RAMEN?
OH, HE'S THE UNCLE OF ONE OF THE GUYS IN MY CLASS.
we exchanged numbers

GUY!?
WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
COME ON, DIDN'T I TELL YOU ABOUT THIS BEFORE?
BASICALLY,
I GO TO THE RAMEN SHOP THAT TACHIBANA WORKS AT NOW FROM TIME TO TIME.
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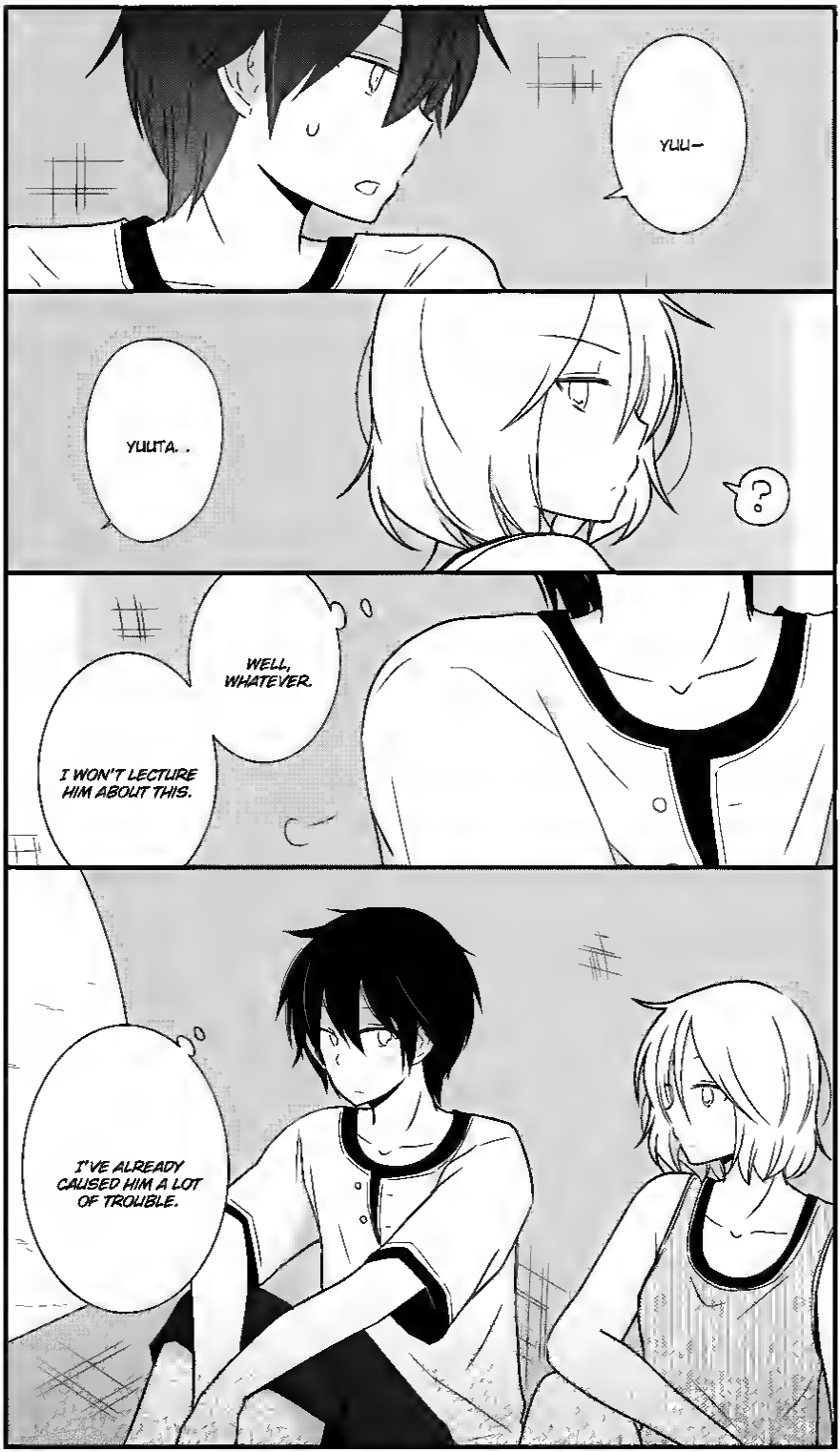
I SEE...
TACHIBANA HAYATO, HUH?
A BOY FROM YUUTA'S CLASS...
TO THINK ALL THIS HAPPENED WHEN I WAS TOO DEPRESSED TO COME TO OUR INFORMATION EXCHANGES.
I LOVE YOU.

チラッ
IF YUUTA GETS TOO CLOSE TO SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IT'LL BECOME PROBLEMATIC.
HE SHOULD KNOW THAT TOO.
HUH?
HEY YUUTA.
OOTUSKA YUI.
RIGHT?
REMEMBER YOU'RE A GIRL RIGHT NOW.
HUH? WHAT ARE GETTING AT?
OF COURSE I KNOW THAT.
WAIT. ARE YOU MAD THAT I WENT TO GO EAT RAMEN AS A GIRL?
IT'S FINE IF I KEEP IT IN MODERATION RIGHT? I WON'T GET FAT ANYWAY
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.


YUU—
YUUTA. .
?
WELL, WHATEVER.
I WON'T LECTURE HIM ABOUT THIS.
I'VE ALREADY CAUSED HIM A LOT OF TROUBLE.

HEY.
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED, WHY NOT JUST COME EAT WITH ME?
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summer break's started now too!
....
YUUTA!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT'LL CAUSE MISUNDERSTANDINGS, OK?

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